

**SECRET**

**EYES ONLY**

13 November 1959

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Chief, Contracts Branch, DPD

**THROUGH :** Acting Chief, Development Projects Division

**SUBJECT :** Weekly Report No. 60-18

**REFERENCE :** Memorandum for DD/P, dated 9 November 1959,  
from C/CB/DPD, same subject.

1. I am reminded by your subject weekly report to make two requests. No, repeat no, further expenditures [redacted] are to be authorized without my personal approval until somebody gives me and secures my approval of an over-all plan and cost estimate. I would like to point out that the action reported by you in the reference authorizing [redacted] is strictly illegal. As of 10 days ago the whole question [redacted] was in doubt. I have several times remarked to Jim Cunningham that if he could not draw up a reasonable plan for the rehabilitation of [redacted] we will look at other bases before making a large investment. The purpose of this request is to compel prompt formulation and submission of a general plan before we spend a lot of money perhaps needlessly. I mention the well rather than the hangar extension because the latter was at least discussed in my presence at the suppliers' meeting in Burbank.

2. I do not desire to have any further contracts of the importance and size of the initial one with P&W executed without my prior knowledge and approval. Where such a large amount of money is involved I am sure the Director would wish to have me at least briefly review the proposed terms of the contract. I believe you will find if you look at the appropriate authorizing documents that, although the Contracting Officer has authority to execute contracts with no other approval within approved programs, this is qualified by the statement that contracts involving significant issues of procurement policy should be approved by higher authority. In the present case I feel that any contract for [redacted] should be reviewed by me. I might point out that your authority in the present case seems to me slightly questionable in view of the fact that to the best of my knowledge and belief a program

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document covering OXCART has never been approved by me or by the DCI (although I have such a document in hand from you for approval).

3. I am not particularly disturbed about any of these actions and I am too much an admirer of your ability and performance to be in the least critical. I am well aware that you do an extraordinarily good job in a situation where your authorities and policy guidance are often ambiguous and uncertain. Nevertheless, I am genuinely anxious always to help provide clearer guidance. Restrictions like those implied in the 2 preceding paragraphs are suggested as much for your own protection and in order to develop a proper internal record as they are to ensure adequate review of contractual actions. When I consider the triviality of many of the decisions that by regulation are referred to this Office and higher, I am convinced that we must not conduct DPD business in too free-wheeling a manner. As  
25X1 [redacted] was so vividly aware our actions will be subject to review  
25X1 three to five years from now by other people under other circumstances.  
25X1 If we have spent [redacted] three weeks before deciding to abandon  
[redacted] and if it appears that this wasteful decision was never reviewed  
at all, our reputations will suffer accordingly.

cc: AC/DPD

*RMB*  
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

DD/P:RMB:djm  
✓ 1-DD/P Chrono

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